



EMPLOYMENT AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

December 18, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Pai:

The State of Minnesota's Office of Broadband Development, like the FCC, works in partnership with broadband providers to expand broadband Internet access—particularly in rural, unserved areas.

Our first-hand experience working to remove barriers and help establish access across the state informs our view that it will take full support from all partners to get the job done. With that as our framing, I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve full-funding by the end of this year for the rural companies that elected to receive federal Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) universal service support. By acting by the end of this year, you and your commission colleagues will ensure thousands of additional citizens from Minnesota will benefit from new and/or upgraded broadband services since companies that receive A-CAM support are obligated to provide those services under the FCC's 2016 order.

I understand each company's commitment to reach additional Minnesota citizens based on greater funding expires by the end of the year. This presents a unique opportunity for the FCC to make an immediate impact and bring broadband services to rural citizens in our state and across the country. I also recommend the FCC expeditiously evaluate additional universal service funding for the balance of the Minnesota rural companies so they too will have the opportunity to reach additional customers.

I appreciate your hard work and dedication in attempting to bridge the digital divide in rural America. Doing so in Minnesota is a top priority for this Office.

Thank you for your attention in taking this important step and approving additional A-CAM funding yet this year.

Sincerely,

Danna MacKenzie  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Office of Broadband Development